

5-19-2018

Commencement Program: 2018

Governors State University

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GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY **2018 COMMENCEMENT**



Governors State
UNIVERSITY

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

From its inception in 1969, innovation and putting students first have been the hallmarks of GSU. In 2018, that tradition continues. The university has expanded its reach and has solidified its commitment to inspiring hope, realizing dreams, and strengthening community for generations to come. Our work is informed by the following principles:

GSU's strategic planning and financial decisions always put students first. Here, we know that nothing in higher education is more powerful than an uncompromising commitment to student success.

GSU students deserve a high quality education. Here, we emphasize a strong foundation in critical thinking, civic engagement, and communications. Credentials without quality are empty. GSU is an “island of excellence,” according to Dr. Martha J. Kanter, former Under Secretary of the United States Department of Education. With bold new initiatives and innovative undergraduate and graduate degree programs, GSU excels at providing the quality education that is essential for success in today's global society.

GSU is inclusive. Here, students from varying socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds receive unequalled educational opportunities and the support — financial, academic, and social — they need to be successful. The award winning Dual Degree Program continues to encourage community college students to complete both associate and bachelor's degrees. Ninety-one percent of DDP students who have matriculated at GSU have either graduated or are on track to graduate.

GSU is a place of civic engagement. Here, students learn to connect their studies to the responsibilities of employment and citizenship. The first freshman class, who graduate today, followed a structured four-year curriculum connecting their studies to citizenship and fulfilling careers.

GSU is a public square. Here, we are committed to programs and partnerships in education, healthcare, government, and business. The Center for Performing Arts, Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, and the Visual Arts Gallery bring students and community members together to live in the midst of art.

STATE OF ILLINOIS

Bruce Rauner, Governor

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Patrick J. Ormsby, Chair
Lorraine Tyson, Vice Chair
Bruce N. Friefeld, Secretary
Carney A. Barr
Cornelius D. Griggs
Masah SamForay
Anibal Taboas
Linda Coleman, Student Trustee

This program is not an official university document.

The publication of the names of students does not necessarily constitute their official certification as graduates. Governors State University is not responsible for any omissions, errors, and/or changes in this Commencement program.

Photographers are requested to refrain from taking pictures during the ceremony.

Printed with vegetable-based ink and recycled paper. Printed with the authority of the State of Illinois.
10,000 copies.

ORDER OF EXERCISES

Saturday, May 19, 2018, 10 a.m.

College of Arts and Sciences • College of Business
Dr. Elaine P. Maimon, *University President, Presiding*

PRELUDE	Encore Concert Band Bill Schuetter, <i>Conductor</i>	
WELCOME AND SPEAKER INTRODUCTIONS	Tony Labriola, <i>Master of Ceremonies</i>	
PROCESSIONAL.....	Dr. David Golland, <i>Grand Marshal</i> “Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1,” by Edward Elgar Encore Concert Band	
CALL TO ORDER	Dr. David Golland, <i>Grand Marshal</i>	
NATIONAL ANTHEM.....	Stephanie Zwartz, <i>2018 Graduate</i>	
GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.....	Patrick Ormsby, <i>Chair, Board of Trustees</i>	
GREETINGS FROM THE FACULTY	Dr. David Golland, <i>Faculty Senate President</i>	
GREETINGS FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.....	Angela M. Hickey, <i>Alumni Association Representative</i>	
INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT SPEAKERS.....	Linda Coleman, <i>Student Trustee</i>	
STUDENT SPEAKER ADDRESS	Jamal McPherson, <i>2018 Graduate</i>	
FIRST CLASS 14 SPEAKER ADDRESS	Justin Smith, <i>2018 Graduate</i>	
PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS	Dr. Elaine P. Maimon, <i>President</i>	
PRESENTATION OF HONORARY DEGREE	Dr. Elizabeth A. Cada, <i>Interim Provost</i> Conferring of Degree	Dr. Elaine P. Maimon, <i>President</i>
Honorary Degree Recipients, Doctor of Humane Letters	Carol Marin, Don Moseley	
PRESENTATION OF DEGREE CANDIDATES	Dr. Elizabeth A. Cada, <i>Interim Provost</i> College of Business	Dr. Jun Zhao, <i>Dean</i>
College of Arts and Sciences	Dr. Andrae Marak, <i>Dean</i>	
Name Readers	COB – William Kresse, CAS – Dr. Lara Stache, Undergraduates; Dr. Deborah James, Graduates	
CONFERRING OF DEGREES.....	Dr. Elaine P. Maimon, <i>President</i>	
CLOSING REMARKS.....	Tony Labriola, <i>Master of Ceremonies</i>	
RECESSIONAL	Dr. David Golland, <i>Grand Marshal</i> “Crown Imperial,” by William Walton..... Encore Concert Band	
FANFARE SELECTION	Encore Concert Band	

Sign language interpretation provided by Susan Bova.

The audience is requested to rise and remain standing during the Processional and Recessional.

ORDER OF EXERCISES

Saturday, May 19, 2018, 4:30 p.m.

College of Education • College of Health and Human Services
Dr. Elaine P. Maimon, *University President, Presiding*

PRELUDE	Encore Concert Band
Bill Schuetter, <i>Conductor</i>	
WELCOME AND SPEAKER INTRODUCTIONS	Tony Labriola, <i>Master of Ceremonies</i>
PROCESSIONAL.....	Dr. David Golland, <i>Grand Marshal</i>
Dr. DeLawnia Comer-HaGans, <i>Excellence Award Recipient</i>	
“Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1,” by Edward Elgar	Encore Concert Band
CALL TO ORDER	Dr. David Golland, <i>Grand Marshal</i>
NATIONAL ANTHEM	Nicolette Giblin, <i>2018 Graduate</i>
GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.....	Cornelius D. Griggs, <i>Trustee, Board of Trustees</i>
GREETINGS FROM THE FACULTY	Dr. David Golland, <i>Faculty Senate President</i>
GREETINGS FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.....	Jennifer Guimond-Quigley, <i>Alumni Association Representative</i>
INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT SPEAKERS.....	Linda Coleman, <i>Student Trustee</i>
STUDENT SPEAKER ADDRESS	Jerry Davis-EL, <i>2018 Graduate</i>
FIRST CLASS 14 STUDENT SPEAKER ADDRESS	Simone Jones, <i>2018 Graduate</i>
PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS	Dr. Elaine P. Maimon, <i>President</i>
PRESENTATION OF HONORARY DEGREE	Dr. Elizabeth A. Cada, <i>Interim Provost</i>
Conferring of Degree	Dr. Elaine P. Maimon, <i>President</i>
Honorary Degree Recipient, Doctor of Humane Letters	Martin R. Castro
PRESENTATION OF DEGREE CANDIDATES	Dr. Elizabeth A. Cada, <i>Interim Provost</i>
College of Education	Dr. Shannon Dermer, <i>Interim Dean</i>
College of Health and Human Services	Dr. Catherine Balthazar, <i>Interim Dean</i>
Name Readers	COE – Dr. Colleen Sexton, CHHS – Dr. Rebecca Wojcik
CONFERRING OF DEGREES.....	Dr. Elaine P. Maimon, <i>President</i>
CLOSING REMARKS.....	Tony Labriola, <i>Master of Ceremonies</i>
RECESSIONAL.....	Dr. David Golland, <i>Grand Marshal</i>
Dr. DeLawnia Comer-HaGans, <i>Excellence Award Recipient</i>	
“Crown Imperial,” by William Walton.....	Encore Concert Band
FANFARE SELECTION	Encore Concert Band

Sign language interpretation provided by Susan Bova.

The audience is requested to rise and remain standing during the Processional and Recessional.

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

Martin R. Castro

Martin R. Castro knew early on that every human being in every community possesses value despite the injustices he saw in his neighborhood on the Southeast side of Chicago.

The son and grandson of Mexican immigrants, Mr. Castro watched his elders join hands with others to uplift those unseen by society.

Today, Mr. Castro stands on the shoulders of his forefathers, having spent three decades building social and corporate networks on the foundation of diversity and inclusion in America's promise of dignity and prosperity for all—without regard to place of birth.

Service is the golden thread running through Mr. Castro's personal and professional lives.

In 2009, he was appointed to lead the Illinois Human Rights Commission, and in 2011, President Barack Obama named Mr. Castro Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. As the first Latino to head the agency, Mr. Castro revered his role as a warrior for the rights of those pushed to the margins.

Armed with a juris doctor from University of Michigan School of Law, Mr. Castro studies statutes and systems to lend voice to those silenced in boardrooms, classrooms, courtrooms, and restrooms.

Leading the charge to vanquish darkness with the light of understanding of those who look, love, and believe differently, Mr. Castro founded Castro Synergies to sync with like-minded communities seeking social change.

Serving the basic needs of Hispanics across the region as interim CEO for Casa Central since 2016, Mr. Castro is also focused on international communities as a member of the 2018 Global Diplomacy Lab.

With the esteemed Ohtli Award, the Mexican government called Mr. Castro one of the most influential Latinos in the world, who has had a profound and positive impact on the Mexican diaspora.

Carol Marin and Don Moseley

Truth, accuracy, and fairness are the doctrines that guide veteran journalists Carol Marin and Don Moseley, an intrepid reporting team whose mission is to promote justice from the lowest ranks of society to the highest offices in the nation. For more than 30 years, Ms. Marin and Mr. Moseley have forged an uncommon bond to investigate and report on politics, uncovering corruption, and giving voice to the common man who has no access to the places of the powerful and the privileged.

Ms. Marin and Mr. Moseley were both reporters in Nashville, Tennessee, shortly after college. In 1978, she returned to her Chicago hometown. He soon followed and the Marin-Moseley team launched in 1980.

Dogged in their reporting, the highly decorated team joined forces to document and shine a light on injustices wrought in the entangled worlds of politics and law enforcement.

Together, they chose ethics over television ratings and abandoned lofty positions at Chicago's NBC5 after two decades. They continued to honor their principles at the local CBS affiliate, serving as political investigators and national correspondents for the CBS Newsmagazine 60 Minutes II.

In 2004, the team returned to NBC5 and a decade later uncovered Chicago police misconduct surrounding the death of an unarmed black teen.

In 2015, the George Foster Peabody Award Committee hailed their reporting as "relentless and unrivaled" and recognized the team for the second time. Together, Ms. Marin and Mr. Moseley have also won two Alfred I. duPont-Columbia awards and two national Emmys.

Contemplating legacy, the Marin-Moseley team founded the DePaul Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence in 2016 and today serve as co-directors. Their students, as well as their stories, will bear witness to our world for a lifetime.

Jamal McPherson

Jamal McPherson thanks his worldwide exploration for helping him find his true path. A Navy veteran who served aboard the USS Harry S. Truman, Jamal sought the military to hone a sense of discipline he had missed since leaving home at 15.

Although Jamal earned his high school equivalency diploma at 17, he recognized the pathway he was on was untenable. Naval service not only provided an opportunity for self-reflection and personal growth, but also shone a light on three critical traits Jamal wanted to master: humility, discipline, and punctuality.

Upon completion of his service, Jamal volunteered for Urban Warriors, a youth safety and violence prevention program connecting veterans with at risk youth in Chicago. His ability to speak both candidly and from experience resonated with the youth. His distinct approach was picked up by the media, resulting in Jamal receiving a letter of commendation from President Barack Obama praising his commitment to serving the community.

Jamal's dedication to community service also was recognized at GSU when he became the first recipient of the Global Learning Scholarship. This scholarship enabled Jamal to travel to Nicaragua as part of GSU's Public Health Brigade, where he helped with sanitation infrastructure. A proponent of becoming comfortable with being uncomfortable, Jamal considers this experience a concrete example of his desire for greater personal growth and development through constantly expanding his comfort zone. Although a firm believer of education as key to success, Jamal never underestimates the value of self-reflection and knowing oneself.

Jamal graduates today with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice, and he intends to pursue a Master's in Public Administration so he can help create policies for community development and empower youth throughout Chicago.

Celebrating with Jamal today are his mom, dad, aunts, brother, sister, significant other, son, and daughter.

Justin Smith

First Class 2014 Commencement Speaker Justin Smith has left an indelible mark on Governors State University informed by the values with which he was raised.

The youngest of 12 children, Justin grew up in the Crete-Monee area where he cultivated a desire to give back to his community. He was shaped by the support and encouragement he received from his brothers and sisters as he discovered and pursued his passion, music. Combined with his parents' emphasis on the value of higher education, Justin's contributions to GSU exemplify student success and achievement. During the state budget crisis, one of the most challenging times in GSU's history, Justin was immediately on the front lines as a tireless advocate for the school, presenting eloquently on the values of GSU and higher education at panels and events throughout the Southland.

His support of GSU's principles is reinforced by the depth of his involvement in the GSU community. Whether participating in the school's student choir, or acting as a peer mentor, student ambassador, and orientation leader, or serving two terms as Student Body President, Justin embodies his firm belief that when someone gives, they also get back. "We're all blessed to bless each other," he often says, and his ability to view the world from multiple perspectives, share, and listen has helped him both succeed academically and grow as a person. His dedication to building and supporting his community was formally recognized in 2017 when he became GSU's Lincoln Laureate award recipient.

Justin graduates—without student debt—with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with a focus on business administration and management. Threading his passion for music and community with his business degree, Justin intends to support the music community on myriad levels, whether managing and producing shows or helping artists successfully negotiate contracts.

STUDENT SPEAKER

Jerry Davis-EL

Jerry Davis-EL is a champion for social justice, working with traumatized, socio-economically deprived, and marginalized adults and children. As a behavioral health specialist, he utilizes his personal and professional experiences to illuminate and champion holistic solutions to injustice. In addition to counseling adult populations with mental illness and co-occurring mental disorders, Jerry also counsels children, adolescents, probation juvenile detention communities, and at-risk children at an alternative high school.

Jerry earned a Bachelor of Social Work Degree from GSU with a 3.5 GPA in 2016 and received the Illinois Student Laureate Award in 2015 for his civic engagement and excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities. Today, Jerry graduates with a Master's of Social Work.

Jerry credits taking trauma classes at GSU as a critical first step in reclaiming time lost to a vicious cycle of prison, poverty, drugs, and despair. The courses helped Jerry find healing, the promise of peace, and his own voice.

That voice has subsequently presented at national and local conferences and events on the issue on incarceration and higher education. He also cofounded Generating Hope, a student organization to support, advocate for, and empower GSU students impacted by mass incarceration. As part of his legacy, a scholarship was created in honor of Dr. Glass and Generating Hope.

Since his release in 2010—after 16 years in and out of the Illinois prison system and one month after learning of his daughter's murder—Jerry was determined that her death would not be in vain. He vowed to make social injustice the cause to which he would now dedicate his life.

And last year, in a nod to his achievements, the Cook County Circuit Court expunged his criminal record, officially creating a clean slate to launch his professional life.

After graduation, Jerry plans to open a social service agency and write about his journey.

Celebrating with Jerry today are his father, his wife, his siblings, his children, and his grandchildren.

Simone Jones

First Class 2014 Student Commencement Speaker Simone Jones has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to health service driven by her desire to help others flourish.

As the eldest of four children, this first-generation college student embraced being a role model for her siblings. She also sought to help others in her community as early as elementary school, where she was involved with the Lighthouse Youth Center, which provides recreational opportunities for underprivileged populations.

In high school, Simone continued to give back to her community, participating in the Truth 'N' Trauma outreach, working with students from impoverished neighborhoods dealing with violence and trauma. She also worked at a daycare center, where she saw first-hand the impact of early childhood experiences.

Although Simone was well-prepared to participate in the GSU community upon admission, she is quick to acknowledge the challenges of adjusting to the rigors of academic life: her first semester GPA of 1.7 testified to that. A testament to Simone's fortitude, discipline, and drive, however, was her 3.8 GPA the following semester. Simone credits the community of Prairie Place, GSU's on-campus housing where she lived for the entirety of her collegiate career, for the personal growth that helped shape her academic success.

Another pivotal moment for Simone was hearing Jerry Davis-EL speak at a Generating Hope student group event. She recognized similarities in their life stories, and his willingness to be so open about his past inspired her to keep pushing herself to shape her future. Their exchange also exemplifies a core tenet of GSU: peer-learning in an intergenerational community.

Simone is graduating today with a Bachelor's Degree in Community Health with a concentration in Pre-Occupational Therapy. She plans to pursue a graduate degree in Occupational Therapy with a focus on geriatric care, driven by her belief that people should live to their fullest capacity all the way to the end of their life.

Celebrating with Simone today are her mother, aunts, uncle, cousins, and best friend.

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Aidah Abdallah *	Therese Caldwell *	Tamashe Foy	Devin Jenkins
Haya Abdelrahman	Shannan Callaghan	Camelia Gamble	Shaylee Jenkins
Dania Abed	Peter Campagna	Connie Gant-Collins *	Bianca Jimenez *
Jide Abiola	Deandria Campbell *	Dannthy Garcon *	David Johnson
Marwah Abuhamdeh	Christie Carrasco	Brendan Garrett	Kimani Johnson
Jose Acevedo	Carla Carthen ***	Marius Ghiur ***	Lanettra Johnson
Aubrey Adams	Philip Cepek	Marshaye Giles **	Taylor Johnson *
Lucretia Adams *	Caroline Chagoya ***	Laporscha Glover	Bailey Jones ***
Liliana Aguado	Frank Chagoya ***	Katashia Goins	Claude Jones
Regina Alexander	Tasha Charles	Louisiana Gonzalez Perez	David Jones
Ala Alhusseini	Gianna Christopher ***	Maxine Gordon	Donald Jones Jr.
Nour Alhusseini	Matthew Clark *	Jennifer Gramse *	Nyia Jones
Ashiana Allen	Angel Collins **	Carla Gray	Todd Josefson
Ashlee Amos ***	Megan Conte ***	Montrice Grays *	Anastasija Jurisic **
Ingrid Anderson	John Craft ***	Margaret Greer	David Kachiroubas *
Joseph Anderson ***	Jacqueline Cunningham	Taylor Griffin	Haily Kaufman *
Matthew Angus	Lidia Czekaj ***	Daniel Grunauer Jr.	Alvin Kelley
Victoria Ankus	Kelsey Czemske	Jason Guerra **	Donyvattia Kinermom
Abbas Ashshaheed	John Daguio	Cynthia Guerrero	Nickolas Kleopa
William Aspen	Brian Daliege **	Katrina Guthrie	Judith Knabe ***
Anthony Austin *	Ronney Davis **	Brendan Hall	Tiffany Kolb
Steven Bailey *	Valeria Davis	Mary Hampton	Nicholas Kovar
Tonia Bailey *	Zachary Day	Brendon Hanley	Allison Kowal
Donald Balis	Jeffrey Dekker	Conrad Harris ***	Jan Krzystyniak
James Banks	Nicholas DiGrispino *	Leila Harris	Jordyn Larson
Algredda Barron **	Mylo Dixon	Nick Hartigan	Taylor Lecik-Boyne
Willie Barron Jr. **	Nijea Dixon	Deshia Hawkins	Nicole Lipscomb
Mary Kathryn Barton **	Caryn Doljanin *	Felisa Haynes ***	Willie Lipsey III
Kerstin Battles **	Marco Dominguez **	Samall Hazziez Jr. *	Michael Lockwood *
Michael Beatty	Erika Donaldson	Rosemary Heidegger	Caryn Lopez
Emily Bell	Monae Drake **	Arielle Henry	Nadia Loutfi
Baldo Bello ***	Jermaine Drayton *	Tawanda Henry	Maxine Lovelace
Brianna Beno	Daniel Durling	Beth Herris	Aungelique Lucas
Joel Bess *	Elizabeth Dutcher ***	Myrtis Herrod-Gordon	Melanie Lucas
Sarah Bettenhausen	Tiana Easton	Keonquill Hill *	Ian MacDougall *
Daniel Bilow *	Florence Edwards	Brian Hobby	Jose Marquez
Hannah Blecke	Alpha-Isaac Eferighe	Tasha Hogue	Stanislava Marrs ***
Michelle Bly *	Nathan Elkow	Tiffani Hollis	Nadia Marshall
Cheri Boudreau *	Christina Ellis	Angela Holmes	Damin Martin
Tomasz Brodzik	Yasser Elmatari II	Shane Hull	Devin Martin
Candace Brooks	Gerald Enriquez *	Abdullah Hussein	Jose Martin
Colin Brown ***	James Epley	Sana Ishtaiha	Kellie Martin
Frederick Brown	Kevin Eugling *	Tabatha Jackson	Porscha Martin
Sierra Brown *	Lindsey Ferguson	Fallon Jager	Adam Martinez
Theresa Brown	Wanda Fernandez	Paulina Jalbrzykowski ***	Jasmine Mason
Derrick Buckner	Priscilla Fisher *	Leslie James	Cortez Maxwell Sr.
Lance Butler	Tilon Foreman *	Ghazi Jammal	Summer Maxwell
	Devyn Forquer	William Jarosz	Hattie McCarty-Allen *

* = Cum Laude ** = Magna Cum Laude

*** = Summa Cum Laude § = University Honors Program

Academic honors awarded to undergraduate students only.

For Commencement, cumulative GPA calculated through Fall 2017.

Eric McEwen
 Jalen McGruder
 Tim McKeough IV
 Dennis McMillan *
 Jamal McPherson
 Preston Medrano
 Ariel Merritt *
 DeShawn Mills
 Leonardo Mireles
 Ejaz Ahmed Mohammed
 Vicki Montgomery
 Markia Moore
 Quintin Morales ***
 Christopher Morris
 Michael Morsovillo
 Trelissa Moses
 Edward Mosterd
 Jeanne Mueller
 Jamaal Murray
 Emily Navarro *
 Madelene Neary **
 Heather Nelson *
 Elizabeth Neris ***
 Yasmeen Nofal
 Malchiah Nolan Sr.
 Halema Noufel ***
 Matthew Oland
 Alejandro Orozco *
 Jeffrey Pacocha
 Dawid Palac
 Sree Thej Palakuru
 Rene Parks **
 Haydee Parra
 Jessica Pawlak
 Yolanda Peoples
 Betsy Perea *
 Tyler Pierce
 Kristin Poortenga ***
 Joshlyn Porter
 Phillip Prude
 Paulina Ptak-Mazur
 Charlesetta Pulce
 Angel Quezada *
 Christian Randle
 Christopher Rangel
 Trinette Redditt
 Constance Reed
 Stephen Reed

Anna Reyes
 Susana Reyes ***
 Valerie Reyna
 Quiana Richardson
 Edgely Rife
 Jeremiah Ringo
 Mickaela Rivera
 Elizabeth Roberts *
 Jason Roberts
 Achuynnua Robinson
 McHenry Robinson III
 Prentyce Robinson
 Lisa Roddy
 Jessica Rodgers
 Arturo Rodriguez ***
 Jovani Rodriguez *
 Austin Roeske **
 Ricky Rogers *
 Dameika Rosenthal
 Tom Rossi **
 Adan Ruiz
 Marquise Russell
 Deanna Salah
 Victor Salazar
 Tiffany Sampson
 Lizbeth Sanchez
 Natalie Sanfratello
 Sondra Savannah
 Jacquelyn Schopf
 Marilyn Scott
 Sintelle Scott
 Aysha Shalabey
 Noelle Shalabi
 Diane Shannon
 Maya Shelton
 Christopher Smith
 Malcolm Smith
 Taylor Smith *
 Ariel Sneed
 Brittany Sobko
 Henry Springer
 Ronetta Stamps
 Scott Staudt
 Christopher Stock
 James Stockdale ***
 Kevin Stoffle
 Sydney Stokes
 Brian Stone

Samantha Swaney
 Edward Swatkowski **
 Sofia Syed
 Emel Syunetchieva **
 Carrie Szmuksta *
 Breann Szopinski *
 Melanie Taliaferro
 George Tarnopol
 Danielle Terry **
 Amanda Thayer *
 Simone Thomas
 John Toth **
 Adam Turlakes *
 Steven Traskell Jr.
 Kristen Trice
 Shaneva Trotter
 David Uhlmann
 Monica Ulmer ***
 Janikka Vance
 Shanikka Vance
 Victoria Vasser
 Joanna Vieyra *
 Perla Villagomez *
 Pauline Walker
 Lavonda Wallace
 Marjorie Wallace
 Elizabeth Weems
 Doris Westbrook
 Samantha Wilder
 Kyle Williams
 Tamekca Williams
 Sierra Williford
 Calvin Wilson
 Jenina Winters
 Sarah Wiora ***
 Sonja Wormbly
 Kendall Wright
 Thayer Yasin
 Ellen Young
 Rhonda Young
 Heidi Zambrano ***
 Hayley Zarifis
 Ranna Zayed
 David Zednik ***
 James Zinkel
 Jason Zorena
 Stephanie Zwartz ***

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS
 Melinda Arce-Gudino ***
 Fermin Barbosa **
 Deborah Burk ***
 Lisa Campos **
 Delia Cherrington *
 Melody Freeman
 Tyler Schneider *
 Zachary Shortley *
 David Sifuentes **
 Lucia Welsh

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
 Bashar Abdelsalam
 Ayuba Adeniyi
 Nicholas Alvarez
 Samuel Amaya
 Kendall Anderson
 Nathaniel Bachler *
 Tenesha Bailey
 Mohammad Ballout
 Aurelius Barnwell
 Timothy Berge
 Keith Blecker ***
 Sheamus Brennan
 Michael Bridges Jr.
 Daniel Brooks **
 Jesse Brooks III
 Thomas Corcoran
 Michal Cudzich ***
 Daniel Cuevas
 Nathaniel Dahlberg
 Terin D'Amico **
 Tyler Danczak
 Latia Dyson
 Jacqueline Elliott *
 Fabie Ezife ***
 Abir Fathalla
 David Folami
 Eric Freudenberg
 Evelina Gailiute-Teeter
 Angelina Gerbas***
 Likhith Gogineni
 Karen Grgurich ***
 Brian Gumm
 Tyrone Harris **
 Malcolm Holland
 David Holloway **

* = Cum Laude ** = Magna Cum Laude

*** = Summa Cum Laude § = University Honors Program

Academic honors awarded to undergraduate students only.

For Commencement, cumulative GPA calculated through Fall 2017.

Andrew Holysz
Adam House
Kelly House
Stephen Hubrich
Majdy Husein
Jude Ibe **
Barry Jackson
Ryan Januszyk **
David Jercinovic **
Jacob Jerkovich
Christopher Johnson *
Ryan Karczewski ***
Brian Kopas
Mary Koran
Daniel Kuchta
Anton Kuhar ***
Karolina Kukulka
Krzysztof Kuzma
Piotr Kuzma **
Mark Leahy ***
Hollis Ledbetter
Luis Maldonado Jr.
Dominick Marcuccilli *
Dreyvon McCray
Ryan McKanna
Alejandro Medina *
Aaron Mitchell *
Donnell Moore
Francisco Nava ***
Rosa Orozco
Himanshu Patel *
Rushhil Patel *
Shreya Patel ***
Daniel Perisic
David Petecki
Ashlee Polk
Lois Preston
Anthony Ramirez
Alvina Reed
Emilio Rico
Kameeka Roberson *
William Roman Jr. *
Scott Rosenberg ***
Andrew Russell
Courtne Russell
Saleh Sakhnini
Hilario Salgado
Erin Schisley

Imran-Muhammad Shabir **
Todd Siefert ***
Christopher Skobel *
Kyle Smola
Joshua Spratt
Scott Tepper ***
David Thomas
Mangal Tyagi Jr. ***
Sean Valley
Klaudijus Vinkleris **
Marse Visnevac ***
Jared Walton
Malcolm Washington
Toyneka Washington
Uwimana Williams
Dustin Wondrasek **
Daniel Wooton ***
Jamal Yousef ***

MASTER OF ARTS

Rubya Ahmed
Chiron Alderman
Mohammad Khalid Ali
Antonia Banks
Kristy Bickham
Alexandra Bouziotis
Tashia Boyd
Michelle Brown
Sonja Byrd
Shanor Carter
Noreen Chandler
Edward Clancy III
Melvin Clark
Linda Coleman
Cynthia Culpepper
Deneen Finner-Erby
Jamise Frazier
Patricia Freeman
Christy Fresas
LaSheena Fuller
Breona Gamble
Jared Gigl
Matthew Harland
Ariel Harris
Edmund Hillock
Quentin Jones
Collice King
Angela Kinstner

David Kline
Joyce Leachman
Jessica Lolli
Joan Martin
Kevin McCleish
Moe Messavussu
Stephen Moody
Marantz Moon
Jasmine Ochoa
Gerald O'Malley
Nicole Passaglia
Scott Allen Petersen
Jessica Peterson
Heather Poerio
Phillip Richardson
Regina Richardson
Antonio Rubino
Samantha Schmidt
Bridgette Simmons
Byron Stanley
Johnetta Stokes
Victoria Strole
Shataka Suggs
Juanita Triplett
Richard Velasquez
Russell Vilorio
Jacob Witt

MASTER OF FINE ARTS

Chandra Abernathy
Lauren Barnes
Peter Cummings
Amber Gocken
Robert Mason
Sandra Mendez
Iris Montgomery-Ilori
Diane Nadler
Joshua Sampson
Jackie Snell

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Chiron Alderman
Antonia Banks
Christopher Dudzinski
Catherine McCarthy
Colleen Novander
Omosola Odusanya

Latricia Warnsley-Kimbrough
Errica Weatherspoon
Chanelle Williams

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Mohammed Abdul Ghani
Srinivasa Reddy Akiti
Nika Alex
Mir Ali
Ruman Ali Khan
Maysoon Alissa
Ramesh Ambari
Ram Mohan Reddy
Annapureddy
Sreenivasa Annem
Gaana Priya Appecherla
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Harika Kathi	Mihir Mevada	Akhileshwar Goud Padala	Pullakura Sushmitha Reddy
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The stoles or cords worn by some graduates symbolize their membership in an honor society.

Honors Program – for undergraduates only

Graduates who complete the rigorous Honors Program develop greater depth within their academic program by completing advanced studies, attending interdisciplinary seminars, and producing a final honors project.

Program	Recognition	Color
GSU Honors Program	Medallion.....	Gold

University Honors – for undergraduates only

Honor	Recognition.....	Color
Cum Laude	Cord	White
Magna Cum Laude	Cord	Silver
Summa Cum Laude	Cord	Gold
Lincoln Laureate.....	Medallion	Gold

Honor Societies – for students who are members of these Honor Societies

Society	Recognition.....	Color(s)
Alpha Chi Psi (English).....	Cord	Red and Black
Alpha Eta Society (Allied Health).....	Cord	Green
Alpha IOTA Sigma (Interdisciplinary)	Cord	Blue and White
Alpha Phi Sigma (Criminal Justice).....	Cord	Royal Blue and Gold
Alpha Sigma Lambda (Adult Learners)	Cord	Burgundy and Antique Gold
Beta Gamma Sigma (Business)	Cord	Royal Blue and Gold
Chi Sigma IOTA (Counselors)	Stole	Blue and White
Kappa Delta Pi (Education).....	Cord	Green and Purple
Lambda Pi Eta (Communications).....	Cord	Crimson and Cream
Phi Alpha (Social Work)	Stole	Blue and Gold
Phi Theta Epsilon (Occupational Therapy)	Cord	Navy and Gold
Pi Alpha Alpha (Public Administration)	Stole	Light Blue and Gold
Psi Chi International (Psychology).....	Cord	Dark blue and Platinum
SALUTE Veterans.....	Cord	Red, White, and Blue
Sigma Theta Tau (Nursing).....	Cord	Purple
Tau Sigma (Transfer)	Cord	Burgundy and Gold
Student Senate (Student Governance).....	Stole	Black and White
Upsilon Phi Delta (Healthcare)	Cord	Blue and Red
Upsilon Pi Epsilon (Computer Science)	Cord	Maroon and White

Dual Degree Program – for undergraduates who entered GSU through the Dual Degree Program

Dual Degree Program Partner	Recognition.....	Color(s)
City Colleges of Chicago	Cord	Light Blue and Black and White
College of DuPage.....	Cord	Green and Black and White
Harper College.....	Cord	Blue and Black and White
Joliet Junior College	Cord	Purple and Black and White
Kankakee Community College	Cord	Red and Black and White
Moraine Valley Community College	Cord	Green and Black and White
Morton College	Cord	Blue and Black and White
Prairie State College.....	Cord	Green and Black and White
South Suburban College	Cord	Blue and Black and White
Triton College	Cord	Maroon and Black and White
Waubensee Community College	Cord	Maroon and Black and White

ACADEMIC REGALIA

During the commencement ceremony, students, and faculty wear academic costumes indicating the wearers' degrees, colleges/universities, and fields of study.

THE CAP

The black mortarboard type is the most common cap worn. Degree candidates wear cap tassels that are black and white, the university colors. Colors worn by the faculty vary according to their fields of study.

THE GOWN

Gowns are of three kinds. The bachelor's gown is relatively simple, with lines falling straight from a fairly elaborate yoke. Its distinguishing characteristic is the long pointed sleeve. Braided silken cords are worn by students who have achieved special scholastic recognition. The master's gown has sleeves, with a back end extending down below the knee in a crescent shape. The doctoral gown is an elaborate costume, with velvet panels down the front and around the neck and three velvet bars on the bell-shaped sleeves.

THE HOOD

The official colors of the college or university from which a degree is conferred are represented in the lining of the hood. For each field of study, there is a corresponding trim color. The trim colors for doctoral and master's hoods are as follows:

Degree Programs.....	Color
Accounting	Drab
Addictions Studies.....	Salmon Pink
Analytical Chemistry	Golden Yellow
Art	Brown
Business Administration.....	Drab
Communication Disorders.....	Salmon Pink
Communication and Training	White
Computer Science	Golden Yellow
Counseling.....	Light Blue
Counselor Education and Supervision	Light Blue
Criminal Justice	Navy
Early Childhood Education.....	Light Blue
Education	Light Blue
Educational Administration.....	Light Blue
English.....	White
Environmental Biology	Golden Yellow
Independent Film and Digital Imaging.....	Brown
Interdisciplinary Leadership.....	Light Blue
Health Administration	Salmon Pink
Management Information Systems.....	Golden Yellow
Mathematics.....	Bright Gold
Multicategorical Special Education	Light Blue
Nursing	Apricot
Occupational Therapy	Slate Blue
Physical Therapy	Teal
Political and Justice Studies.....	White
Psychology.....	Light Blue
Public Administration	Peacock Blue
Reading.....	Light Blue
School Psychology	Light Blue
Social Work.....	Citron

DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM GRADUATES

Dual Degree Program graduates received distinctive cords for their academic regalia that intertwine GSU's colors — black and white — with the colors of the student's community college. Braiding these colors together symbolizes the partnership and shared goal of the community college and GSU; working together to help these students achieve academic success.

Governor State University's nationally recognized Dual Degree Program is a partnership with 17 area community colleges that establishes a seamless pathway for students to complete their associate degrees at a Chicagoland partner community college and continue their education at GSU to attain their bachelor's degrees.

YOUR YEAR, YOUR GIFT – 2018 CLASS GIFT

Each year, members of GSU's graduating class band together to support future GSU students — and to give thanks for the many opportunities their GSU education has provided for them. They know that those opportunities would not have been possible without the financial support of other GSU alumni and friends. We invite all graduating students to honor your graduation year with a contribution of \$20.18 to a GSU cause you care about. This collective gift from each of you leaves a legacy for the Class of 2018. Every gift matters, so take action and be counted. Visit www.govst.edu/donate for more information.

GSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Alumni Association connects graduates with each other, as well as to professional development, networking, and social and volunteer opportunities. What is most important is that as a graduate of GSU, the Alumni Association is YOUR organization. Your engagement in the association can help make it what you need it to be for your success, both personally and professionally.

As GSU alumni, you represent the very best the university has to offer. Please advocate for GSU in your personal and professional networks and encourage others to investigate opportunities to attend and/or support your alma mater. We welcome your return to campus and encourage you to volunteer as a mentor, leader, or lifelong learner, and join one of our growing alumni chapters.

The Alumni Association and the generations of GSU alumni are proud to welcome the Class of 2017 to its ranks. Congratulations and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Visit www.govst.edu/alumni for more information.



THE MACE

The governor's mace, carried by the marshal who leads the academic procession, is a symbol of the authority of the university as a degree-granting institution. The legal authority of the university is grounded in the intellectual authority of the distinguished faculty who follow in the procession.

In antiquity, the mace was a weapon used to establish the "authority" of the physically strong. Its transformation into a symbol of intellectual authority is both a tribute to and a reminder of the civilizing force of a university's teaching, research and community service functions.

Engraved on the four side-panels of the governor's mace are the seal of the State of Illinois; a cardinal, the state bird; the seal of the former Illinois Board of Governors Universities; and an inscription which reads "The governor's mace, a symbol of tradition and authority of Governors State University, dedicated to the search for excellence in the pursuit of truth, knowledge and the love of learning. Presented by Peter Levin, friend of the university, June 2, 1979."

Atop the mace is a silver rendition of the university logo. The three sides of the "triangle" symbolize the university's teaching, research and community service functions. The three lines visually suggest the shape of a rocket; reminding us both that the university was founded within days of Neil Armstrong setting foot on the moon and that the university is a hope-filled, pioneering community, committed to a better future for all men and women. The circle symbolizes the fact that the university is, indeed, a community. Finally, the fact that the tips of the triangle reach beyond the circle indicates the university's outreach into the region, state and nation, and its commitment to teaching, research and community service.

